

Story 1252 (1988 Tape 1)

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Nasreddin Hoca and the Broth of the Broth of the Rabbit

One day there was a group of men who went hunting. After a day of hunting, they returned to their village with just one rabbit. After talking the matter over among themselves, they decided to share the rabbit with Nasreddin Hoca on the condition that he would provide the rest of the food for a meal. They then went to the Hoca's house and made this proposal to him. He accepted their offer, and his wife cooked a good dinner for all of them. After the meal had been eaten, the hunters bade the Hoca farewell and departed.

On the following day several people went to the Hoca's house. When he asked what they wanted, they said that they were relatives of the hunters and they wanted to eat some of the rabbit which the Hoca had been given. There was very little of the rabbit left, but he served that to them, along with a great amount of food from his own supplies.

On the third day another group of the hunters' relatives arrived. They said, "Hoca, we are relatives of the hunters who brought you a rabbit. May we stay for dinner at your home?" The rabbit meat was now all gone, but the Hoca had his wife make some broth by boiling the bones of the rabbit. Again, the Hoca

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had to provide most of the meal with food of his own.

When still another group of the hunters' relatives arrived on the fourth day, the Hoca thought to himself, "This will continue forever unless I do something to stop such people from coming here." To his wife he said privately, "Just bring a pan of hot water and serve that to the guests today."

After each of the guests had been given a bowl of hot water, one of them spoke up. He said, "What is the meaning of this, Hoca? What is this that you are serving us? It seems to be only water."

"Oh, no," said Nasreddin Hoca. "This is the broth of the broth of the rabbit that your relatives brought to us."